**Agreement between Government of H.P. and NTPC**

2247. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has signed an agreement with Government of Himachal Pradesh to build and finance a 800 MW power project;

(b) what were the attractive features of this project for the NTPC;

(c) what is the criteria used by the NTPC to enter into such hydro- power projects;

(d) whether any effort has been made by NTPC to identify power projects in Andhra Pradesh on a similar basis;

(e) whether it is a fact that there are number of potential hydro-power sites in the Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the reasons for NTPC not giving adequate attention to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has signed an agreement on 26th February, 2000 with the Government of Himachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board for implementation and operation of Kol Dam Hydro Electric Power Project of 800 MW capacity in Himachal Pradesh on ownership basis by NTPC.

(b) and (c) NTPC evaluated a number of hydro electric power projects and selected Kol Dam Hydro Electric Power Project after consideration of various aspects like techno-economics, environment, legal status, availability of infrastructure, working environment, preparedness etc.

(d) One of the projects evaluated by NTPC is Priyadarshini Jurala Hydro Electric Project of 221.4 MW capacity in Andhra Pradesh. This project is known to have inter-state problems, and cost of energy is also likely to be higher than Kol Dam Hydro Electric Power Project.

(e) NTPC has not investigated any hydro power sites in the Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh.

(f) Andhra Pradesh has a share of 580 MW from Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Project (2100 MW), under operation by NTPC. NTPC is setting up Simhadri Thermal Power Project (1000 MW) which is fully dedicated to Andhra Pradesh. NTPC also envisages setting up expansion (Stage-III) of Ramagundam STPP by addition of 500 MW in which Andhra Pradesh will also

get its share. Thus, NTPC, on its part, is paying adequate attention to augment power generation in Andhra Pradesh.

**Power reforms**

2248. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme to encourage all State Electricity Boards to go on a campaign to install meters at all premises obtaining power without meters;

(b) what are the details of this scheme;

(c) whether any financial assistance will be extended to States like Andhra Pradesh which are in the fore front of power reforms;

(d) has any discussion been held with the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board to implement pilot schemes to install meters; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The issue of installing meters at all premises was discussed in the power Ministers' Conference held on 26.2.2000 and the consensus favoured a time bound programme for 100% metering by December, 2001. Government proposes to encourage all SEBs to provide meters under the proposed Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP). Details of the scheme have not yet been formulated. No specific discussion with any SEBs have taken place.

**Transmission and distribution losses of power**

2249. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the loss of Power during transmission and distribution during a year;

(b) whether power loss has been on the rise with every passing year;

(c) the estimated power loss from 1998 to 1999;

(d) whether significant part of the transmission and distribution losses are due to pilferage; and

(e) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken through out the country to check these transmission and distribution losses?